

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In the application of** : Sparks, Adrian  
**Serial No.** : 09/745,890  
**Filed** : December 21, 2000  
**For** : Load Sharing Nodes in a Network Utilising Shared Optical Protection  
**Examiner** : Tran, Dzung D.  
**Art Unit** : 2613  
**Customer number** : 23644

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 13, 2006**

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants file herewith a full response to the Final Office Action mailed July 13, 2006 in connection with the above referenced application.